



Embassy of the United States of America
Port Louis, Mauritius

PRESS RELEASE

**Minister Mireille Martin on “Women as Political Leaders”
International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP)**

Port Louis, September 11, 2012: Minister of Gender Equality Mireille Martin has been selected as the Mauritian representative in the “Women as Political Leaders” of the Department of State’s IVLP Program, from September 15 to October 6 in the U.S. This program aims to: explore the role of women as agents of social and political change in the U.S. and examine how opinion leaders increasingly integrate the concerns of women into political discourse; illustrate the essential role of non-governmental and grassroots organizations in supporting women leaders and empowering women both professionally and personally; examine policies and programs meant to prevent domestic abuse and violence against women; and provide networking opportunities with influential business and community leaders; women federal, state, and local legislators; and women’s advocates who promote human and civil rights.

The project begins in Washington, DC, where Mrs. Martin will meet with a variety of government and private sector representatives to gain an understanding of American women’s history and of their participation in U.S. political life; of women’s historical and contemporary role as agents of political, economic, and social change in this country; and how the federal government works with state, local and tribal governments and nonprofit organizations to address domestic violence. She will also have discussions with governmental and non-profit organizations about women’s rights and welfare as global concerns.

The IVLP is the U.S. Department of State’s premier professional exchange program. It seeks to build mutual understanding between the U.S. and other nations through carefully designed short-term visits to the U.S. for current and emerging foreign leaders. International Visitors are current or emerging leaders in government, politics, the media, education, the arts, business and other key fields. Over 4,000 International Visitors come to the United States from all over the world each year.

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